

CAPE COD CANAL COMPLETED AFTER THREE CENTURIES

Dimensions Greater Than the
Original Suez Canal.

TOTAL COST IS \$12,000,000

Is 13 Miles Long and Has Minimum
Depth at Low Water of 25 Feet
and in no Place is Less Than
100 Feet Wide at Bottom.

New York.—Recently there was opened across the long arm of Cape Cod, Mass., a waterway which will probably accommodate more tonnage than the Panama canal for a good many years. This will surprise many, for the Cape Cod canal work has been



August Belmont.

done without much blare of trumpets or congressional oratory. But it is a most notable achievement and puts much nearer the realization the dream of an all inland waterway from Maine to Florida.

The freight now rounding dangerous Cape Cod and its shoals every year amounts to 25,000,000 tons and practically all this is expected to take the new shorter and safer route. The canal cost about \$12,000,000. The Panama canal costing \$400,000,000 will have but 10,000,000 tons annually, it is estimated. The great new barge canal in New York state which serves to bring the grain of the West from Lake Erie to New York city is costing \$100,000,000 and its prospective tonnage is but 4,000,000 tons.

So it is difficult to see why the Cape Cod canal was not constructed before. It has been discussed since shortly after the Pilgrims landed in the vicinity. It hung fire for almost three hundred years, but now it will probably be self supporting from the start.

Vessels from ports all along the coast as far south as Charleston, S. C., will use the canal going to and from Boston. Twenty-five thousand craft a year now go around Cape Cod, but at a fearful loss in foundered and wrecked ships and with extra charges for insurance. The average delay per round trip for barges and schooners going outside is calculated to be nearly four days.

This means ten cents a ton loss in money on the 7,000,000 tons of coal

and lumber carried by sailing craft and tows. Steamers carry an additional 4,500,000 tons on which nearly the same proportional amount will be saved by the new route.

The length of the waterway is eight miles in land cut while its length from 30-foot water in Barnstable bay on the northeast to 30-foot water in Buzzard's bay on the southeast is 13 miles. It has a minimum depth at low water of 25 feet and is in no place less than 100 feet wide at the bottom. It is 200 feet wide at the passing place for ships and there is a 3,000-foot breakwater.

The canal is greater in its dimensions than the original Suez canal or the present Manchester canal.

The toll rates will range from \$5 for motor boats and other little craft to \$100 for trading ships of 950 to 999 gross tons and ten cents per gross ton for merchant vessels of more than 1,000 gross tons.

The successful completion of Cape Cod canal is due principally to the energy of three men—August Belmont, financial backer; William Barclay Parsons, the celebrated engineer who supervised the work for the Cape Cod Construction company of which Mr. Belmont is president, and Frank A. Furst, a Baltimore engineering man whose concern did the actual excavating.

Those who think of the construction of a canal as digging away a lot of sand are much mistaken. The builders encountered hard pan and boulders, left by glaciers, according to geologists, which proved almost as tough as solid rock.

There were five previous abortive attempts to cut across Cape Cod.

At Cape Cod the Arctic current meets the Atlantic current and a dense fog is the result. Off Pollock's Rip there are 1,082 hours of fog annually and 2,141 vessels have been wrecked here. The dangers of this fog were fully realized by the discoverers and settlers of the cape.

Bartholomew Gonold, of whom little is known, first sighted the cape in 1602. In 1620 the Pilgrims settled here and three years later we learn that a trading business had been established between this English colony and the Dutch of New Amsterdam.

Capt. Miles Standish, among others, avoided the dangerous fogs of the cape, navigating his little boat up the Scusset river to its head and then transporting the tiny craft across the intervening land to the Monument river. The people of the Massachusetts colony in 1676 had experts to go over the ground and consider the cutting of a canal across the cape, but decided the work was too great. In 1697 another committee reported on the project and in 1736 a disgusted historian speaks of the "place through which a canal has been talked of this 40 years."

The first actual digging took place in 1880, but was almost immediately



Section of Canal at Baurndale, Mass. abandoned. In 1883 excavators took out a million cubic yards of earth. Then the work stopped. Nothing more of importance was done until 1909 when work started on June 22. This was a little over five years ago.

Eight powerful dredges, one of them the largest in the world, and eight tugs were employed in the work. The plant used was worth a million dollars. The builders are proud of their

record of no life lost in the course of the work.

There are two highway bridges over the canal, one at Boone and the other at Sagamore. They are longer than necessary for provision is left to widen the canal to 200 feet. It may be enlarged so as to accommodate the biggest vessel afloat.

The distance from Boston to New York by way of Long Island, Vineyard



Canal Looking Toward Buzzard's Bay.

and Nantucket sounds is 334 miles. The distance by Long Island sound and Cape Cod canal is only 264 miles. This difference in distance, however, does not do full justice to the saving in time accomplished by the new waterway.

CENSURE FOR A BUSYBODY

Took a "Drunk" to a Police Station and is Severely Rebuked for His Pains.

London.—A stinging rebuke was administered to a busybody at Barnstable police court.

A charge of drunkenness was made against a man who had been taken to the police station by a private individual. When the man was brought before the bench the mayor asked if it was customary for a private citizen to take a man in charge in such circumstances. It seemed to him to be most unmanly. If he had met a man in that state of incapability he would have taken him to his home.

The chief constable said it was the first time within his experience that a civilian had brought any one to be locked up.

The mayor said it was a "mean and contemptible trick," and the magistrates dismissed the case on the payment of costs.

BOUGHT A CHURCH FOR \$20

Parsonage of One-Member "Flock" Brought \$340—Organ Brings Big Sum of \$1.50.

Winsted, Conn.—The Methodist church building in West Goshen was sold under the hammer to W. H. Wadhams for \$20. The pews and other fixtures were included in the purchase. Mr. Wadhams also purchased the land on which the building stands, paying \$40 for it.

The parsonage was sold to E. O. Wright for \$340. The organ was bought by F. Ray Wadhams for \$1.50, a melodion by the Goshen school committee for \$5.50; church bells by Mrs. Harrison Ives, \$13, and the barn by W. H. Wadhams, \$9. The money will be turned over to the New York East conference. The church has only one member, besides three trustees. Hence the sale.

Transmits Images by Wire. Paris.—A long distance mirror, styled the telephoto, which transmits images by wire just as the telephone carries sound, has been invented by George Rignour.

WASHINGTON CITY SIDELIGHTS



Plan Home Classes in Practical Agriculture

WASHINGTON.—A plan whereby ten or more farmers or farm women can form home classes in agriculture or domestic science and receive the textbooks, lectures, lantern slides, laboratory and cooking equipment necessary to conduct them has been devised by the United States department of agriculture in co-operation with agricultural colleges of certain states.



The object of the plan is to make accessible at home, to men and women who have not the time or means to attend the regular courses at the colleges, practical short courses in agriculture and home management specially adapted to their districts. These courses, which will consist of 15 to 20 lectures, and will consume five or more weeks, can be arranged to suit the spare time and convenience of each group of people.

The courses to be offered at first are poultry raising, fruit growing, soils, cheese manufacturing, dairying, butter making, and farm bookkeeping; and for the women especially, courses in the preparation, cooking and use of vegetable and cereal foods. The department will supply lectures and lantern slides covering these subjects, and the states which have agreed to co-operate in the plan will lend to each group laboratory and cooking apparatus valued at \$100 and a reference library. The textbooks and lectures will be made so complete that each group can safely appoint one of its members as study leader to direct the work of the course.

When a group has decided to take up the work, the state which co-operates sends an agent with the department's representative to organize a sample class and assist the leader whom they elect in laying out the work and in showing him the best methods of procedure. The classes commonly are held from eight to twelve in the morning and from one to four in the afternoon, two or three days each week. The sessions are not held every day, so that the members will have time to attend to their farm duties in between the sessions, as well as before and after the instruction period. The classes meet commonly at the most convenient farmhouse. During the morning hours, textbook work is done. In the afternoon laboratory work is conducted, and the women who have elected to take the domestic science courses have practical lessons in cooking.

As soon as a class is established, the state organizer withdraws to start a class in some other district. The work thereafter is left in charge of the leader, who receives assistance by mail from the college or the department in carrying on the work.

As there is no regularly paid instructor, classes can be carried on all over the state as rapidly as the college organizer can visit the groups, and as quickly as the laboratory sets supplied by the college become available. The local leader will preside during the reading of the lectures and references, for which full texts and lantern slides are supplied by the department. He will also be responsible for the laboratory equipment. Every one who completes the course will receive a certificate from the state college.

Trapped While at Work Under a Banquet Table

THE story is just getting around about a dinner given in exclusive Washington society, at which the most tactful person was undoubtedly a plumber in overalls. It was an elaborate dinner. The central feature of the table decoration was a playing fountain. But just before the dinner was to be served the fountain refused to play.

A plumber was hastily called. He crawled under the table and soon had the fountain sending a delicate spray into the air. He was busy tightening the couplings of the temporary pipes under the table when the head butler, his mind relieved of a load of care when he saw the fountain playing, announced in the drawing room:

"Dinner is served."

Before the plumber knew what was happening the guests had entered the dining room, chairs were drawn up, and he suddenly found himself hemmed in by a wall in which trousers alternated with skirts.

It was a big round table, so he was safe from discovery from any shifting foot. He scratched his head and wondered what he should do. He looked carefully around. Neither to the right nor to the left nor between any pair of feet was there sufficient space for him to wiggle through. The only way to get out would be to tap on some knee and—"Pardon me, please."

He didn't know much about the etiquette of formal dinner parties, but he had a hunch that that wouldn't make a hit. He decided that there was just one thing to do—stay where he was until the trouser-and-skirt wall departed. So there he sat.

When the dinner was at last over and the guests had returned to the drawing room the plumber crawled forth.

The hostess had tarried for a moment to give a few directions to the head butler. She gasped with astonishment.

The plumber explained.

"Sir," said she, "you are a gentleman." Then to the head butler: "James, give this man \$10 for himself." Then to the plumber: "And please say nothing."



Republic Proves a Mystery

Chinese Peasants Cannot Grasp Idea of a Great Nation Governing Itself.

Peking.—The peace loving nature of the Chinese and the indifference of the general Chinese population living away from the larger commercial cities is well illustrated by a story which Mr. K. H. Cheng, secretary of the board of communications here, relates.

Last year the then minister of war, Wang Sze Cheng, traveled into the interior to meet a certain general; he alighted at Shih Chia Chang, on the Hankow-Peking railway, and took a cart to reach the appointed place.

As they journeyed quietly along the country road the driver broke the silence and inquired where his passenger came from. On learning he was from Peking, he followed this up by asking: "Where is the emperor?"

The minister of war replied: "Oh, we now have a republic."

"But what is the meaning of a republic?"

"A republic means that the country is now governed by the people."

"But," inquired the driver, "how can the people govern? They all have their own work to do."

The minister tried to explain, but the driver continued: "A country without an emperor is like a shop without a boss and without business. If every one governs, then every one is like the emperor and we have no one to look up to."

After considerable talk of this nature the minister gave up in despair the task of explanation and said: "The emperor is too young to rule; he is only a baby, and we have sent him away to be educated."

The cart driver persisted, and said: "But why send him away? Before we had no trouble; now we have nothing but trouble."

This illustrates the attitude of the bulk of the Chinese people toward poli-

tics, and also their one desire to be let alone in peace.

The Chinese have no ideograph for the word "republic," and in their written word it takes several ideographs to explain it.

BIG RATTLER CAUSES PANIC

Hundreds Flee Philadelphia Station When the Reptile Appears—Captured and Taken to Zoo.

Philadelphia.—Several hundred persons at the Broad street station of the Pennsylvania railroad were thrown into a panic by the sudden appearance of an eight foot diamond back rattlesnake. Accompanied by the shrieks of frightened woman, commuters deserted the train shed and left the rattler in possession. Special officers captured the monster with a bag and took it to the city hall, where it was turned over to the zoological garden authorities. It is not known where the snake came from, but it is believed it arrived here in a car load of tropical fruit.

"Prophet Without Honor in His Own Country"

THAT "a prophet is without honor in his own country" was very clearly shown the other day at Marshall hall. The day was an ideal one, and a Washington woman, taking advantage of that fact, put some lunch in a basket, took her daughter, annexed two other children and went down the river to let the tots enjoy the fun of pink lemonade and peanuts.



Presently the children got tired wandering around, peeping at the tomb of the ancient Marshalls, and went to the pony track, where a dozen barefoot colored boys were in charge of the pets. The oldest of them, Virgil, was a round-headed boy with a face as brown as a seal and a mouth that looked like a slit in a watermelon. His main interest in life was the ponies, and such impedimenta as clothing and learning were regarded contemptuously as useless incumbrances. To enjoy the present moment was his only motto.

The Washington woman stood looking over the waves to where the high hill on the opposite shore showed the white porches of Mount Vernon.

"Did you ever hear of George Washington, Virgil?" asked the lady as she watched a whole banana disappear down that personage's throat. Virgil dug his toe in the dirt, looked around appealingly at the rest of the children, then blurted out:

"No'm, I ain't ever heard of no George Washington, 'ceptin' unless you means my uncle, George Washington, what libes down de road a piece."